

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1-20 have been cancelled. New claims 21-40 are added. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request consideration of new claims 21-40.

I. Examiner Interview Dated January 3, 2007

An interview was held on January 3, 2007. An agreement as to allowability was not reached. Applicants discussed the new features associated with independent claim 21. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. As set forth above, claims 1-20 have been cancelled. Applicants assert that the rejection is now moot.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

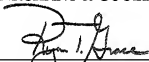
Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,810,405 issued to LaRue et al. (hereinafter “LaRue”). Claims 1-20 have been cancelled as set forth above. Applicants assert that the rejection is now moot. New claims 21-40 are allowable over the currently cited references and applicants respectfully request consideration of new claims 21-40.

IV. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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